



THE TRAILBLAZER

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2002 Snowplow Rodeo

In its first year of participation in the "Snow Rodeo", an interagency competition held by the NJ Highway Authority, the Turnpike Authority received two awards. The team from Southern Division District 3 took first place in the "Appearance and Condition" category while the Northern Division team from District 4 took third place in the same category. These two teams were selected after each District competed in an earlier elimination competition held at the Turnpike.

The event was called off last year due to the attacks on America. This year, a number of teams chose to remember 9.11.01 and demonstrated their

patriotism with inspirational artwork on their plows. Due to the overwhelming response to the artwork, it has been suggested that next year there be a separate award for the best "plow art".

Congratulations to all who participated in these events and, as Kevin McCarthy, New Jersey Turnpike Authority Maintenance Person, told a reporter from the Asbury Park Press, "**Snow removal - that's our pride!**"

The Rodeo included participants from our sister agencies ~ New Jersey Department of Transportation, the South Jersey Turnpike Authority, Port Authority of NY/NJ, MTA Bridges and Tunnels and, of course, the New Jersey Highway Authority.

Out of state participants included the Maryland DOT.



Service Area Renovations

With the first phase of renovations completed at the Clara Barton, John Fenwick, Joyce Kilmer and Vince Lombardi Service Areas on the New Jersey Turnpike, the second phase has begun. Following are the Phase Two Service Areas currently under renovation:

Woodrow Wilson ~ northbound between Interchanges 7 & 7A ~ Milemarker 58.7 ~ Hamilton Township

Grover Cleveland ~ northbound between Interchanges 11 & 12 ~ Milemarker 92.9 ~ Woodbridge

Alexander Hamilton ~ southbound between Interchanges 16E & 15E ~ Milemarker E111.6 ~ Secaucus

Walt Whitman ~ southbound between Interchanges 4 & 5 ~ Milemarker 30.2 ~ Cherry Hill

During the refurbishing period, the Woodrow Wilson and Walt Whitman Service Areas will provide limited food service (i.e. a snack bar), however, food service is **not** available at the Grover Cleveland and Alexander Hamilton Service Areas. All of these Service Areas have temporary restroom trailers and limited coin pay phones available. Fuel service will not be affected.

At the end of the second phase, the newly renovated Service Areas will feature a new "food court" design; new fast food offerings; improved interior and exterior lighting and modern expanded restrooms. They will provide motorists with the best possible accommodations and services as they travel the New Jersey Turnpike.



Winter Driving Tips

As the leaves start to fall from the trees and we enjoy the cool autumn air, we are also reminded that winter is just around the corner. Winter weather can be hazardous and motorists must be especially careful when driving. The American Automobile Association (AAA) has provided the following bad-weather driving tips:

- ❖ ***SLOW DOWN ~ your car needs three times more space to stop on slick roads. Roads become slick and dangerous after a rainfall, especially early in the winter season.***
- ❖ ***Cloudy weather reduces visibility, so use extra caution when passing other vehicles.***
- ❖ ***Increase the distance between your vehicle and vehicle in front of you.***
- ❖ ***Be deliberate in maneuvering your vehicle ~ most skidding is caused by sudden stops and turns.***
- ❖ ***If your vehicle skids, don't hit the brakes. Ease off of the accelerator and steer into the direction of skid.***
- ❖ ***If you drive through standing water, lightly apply the brakes to dry them.***
- ❖ ***Don't speed up when navigating through standing water. Doing so may cause tires to lose contact with the road (hydroplaning). If this occurs, hold the steering wheel steady and lightly apply the brakes. After your wheels regain contact with the road, slow down until you have full control of the car.***
- ❖ ***Be prepared ~ have tire treads, brakes and wipers checked.***
- ❖ ***Never drive while fatigued. Stop every 2 hours or 100 miles and take a brief rest.***
- ❖ ***If you are having car trouble, turn on your hazard lights and pull off the road as far as possible to the right. Light flares or signal for help and stay with your car unless your car is in danger of getting hit by other vehicles. Carry a cellular phone in order to summon help if you become stranded.***